

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

15 MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING EARLY'S QUITE THE PROPER THING

Capture of Lodz by the Germans
THE capture of Lodz is the German answer to Russian accounts of the German army's complete and crushing defeat in the campaign in Poland. It must be admitted that it is an effective answer. Lodz is a city of nearly half a million population, an important industrial centre, and commands the railroad line that leads to Warsaw. It is expected that the Russians will abandon some of their other enterprises, or at least halt their activities in other fields, and turn their attention to the recapture of the second city of Poland, which they have lost. The Germans certainly will not find Lodz easy to hold. In this part of the eastern theatre of war, already the scene of some of the most sanguinary battles in all history, further desperate conflicts certainly will be waged.

This Is the Time for Building
IT is an unwise policy on the part of those who contemplate building of any character within the next year or two to fail to have that building done now. Just as the prudent and far-seeing speculator takes advantage of times of business depression and low prices in the stock and bond market to make his investments, so the prospective builder has his work done when material and labor are cheapest.

That is the situation in Richmond to-day. Some forms of labor at least can be obtained below the customary wage, and building material, as a whole, costs substantially less than it did a year ago or will a year hence. There ought not to be much difficulty for the man who takes advantage of existing conditions to save 15 or 20 per cent of the normal building expense. That is the advantage to the builder. Should he build, he will perform also a public service, for the supplies he purchases will put needed money into circulation, and the labor he hires will relieve to that extent the city's burden of unemployment. Helping himself, he also will help others.

Vocational Education in the Schools
RICHMOND should learn much from the conventions here this week of the National Vocational Guidance Association, which held its first session last night, and of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, which will meet to-morrow afternoon. The industrial, educational and vocational survey which the latter organization has made in Richmond, the results and findings of which were made public in The Times-Dispatch yesterday, will furnish a text for interesting discussion.

It is not very gratifying to be told that Richmond's per capita expenditures for education are little more than half the average of cities of the same class throughout the country. Richmond should be able to do better. It is gratifying, however, to find how largely we are a home-staying population, because such a population furnishes the best foundation for vocational guidance.

We should learn how to discover in our boys and girls the special faculties that fit them for special occupations and how to guide their footsteps in this direction. There is many a poor lawyer who might have made an excellent carpenter.

One Blessing of War
PARIS has undertaken the feeding of its needy population by the ordinary methods of casual work, begging and pilfering fall to provide an existence for the submerged tenth. One result of this communal effort is credibly reported to be that many poor persons are now faring very much better than they did in normal times. So well are they fed, the reports credibly set forth, that they are now living in what amounts to luxury to them.

It is an interesting condition that during a time of war nobody will starve to death, whereas under normal conditions the self-respecting poor in Paris, as elsewhere, occasionally have no choice between death by starvation and suicide. In a period of the world's history, when man's powers of production are so great that nobody should be without sufficient sustenance, it remains for the artificial conditions created by war to as-

sure the necessities of life to many in the world's most brilliant capital. That is to say, when the state controls distribution, with an eye single to giving everybody enough and nobody too much, there is an adequate supply for all, despite greatly reduced production.

To be sure, nobody, not even the Socialists, wants the state to dole out rations, and in Paris those who have the money to buy do not get their supplies from the state. But apparently a large part of the population does dine at the common table, and this part includes the destitute, who are now, probably for the first time in their most miserable lives, eating sufficiently and regularly and without wondering despairingly where the next meal is to come from.

War has brought this about. Let war be credited with whatever benefit it brings to any one anywhere.

A Democratic Plea for Protection
WHEN the Buffalo Times, which is owned by Norman E. Mack, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, inaugurates a campaign for a further revision of the tariff, it is entitled, perhaps, to attention which would not be given a similar propaganda with a different origin. The Times frankly avows a purpose to afford additional protection to some American industries, although it has not furnished the country with a complete list of the proposed beneficiaries. In a general way, the plan is to raise tariff duties on articles not now manufactured on a large scale in this country, but the manufacture of which is being contemplated or increased because of the present necessity created by the war. From Germany, for example, we are accustomed annually to import millions of dollars' worth of manufactured products. These imports have been halted, and American ingenuity and enterprise are being turned in some measure toward furnishing a domestic supply. The Times thinks this movement should receive national encouragement in the shape of protective tariff duties.

There is no essential difference between this proposition and that "protection of infant industries" that was a Republican shibboleth for so many years. While it is true that the shibboleth lost its original meaning, and protection was extended with a too-generous hand to industries no longer infant, it was the argument with which the Republicans sought to justify their economic faith.

The Democratic doctrine is essentially different, because the subject is viewed from the standpoint of the consumer and of the whole body of the people, rather than from that of a favored class. Democratic tariffs and Republican tariffs, each to some extent, must answer the primary purpose of the other, for just as there can be no revenue without some incidental protection, so there can be no protection, unless a regular Chinese wall is erected, without some incidental revenue. A Republican protective tariff, for that matter, will bring in more revenue than a Democratic revenue tariff, which is the reason Congress enacted an income tax law.

The difference is in viewpoint, purpose and expected benefits. The Underwood-Simmons law, honestly devised and drawn for the good of the whole nation, has not had opportunity to vindicate its wisdom. The war has made that impossible. In the meantime, Democracy sees no reason why it should encourage the production in this country of articles that can be manufactured elsewhere in the world at half the cost. Democracy believes that it is better to import these things and turn America's industrial genius into other fields, where natural advantages, combined with intelligence and energy, make possible a fair, equal and successful competition.

The Dream of Church Unity
RICHMOND will be the scene, beginning to-day, of the deliberations of one of the most conspicuous and significant religious conferences held anywhere in the world. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is representative of practically all the important Protestant denominations, and it represents also, perhaps, the most hopeful sign of ultimate Christian unity.

While it is true that the constitution of the council definitely disassociates it from questions of creed and dogma and of differing denominational belief, and places its whole emphasis on service, the germ of ultimate union on a broader scale yet is there. It is impossible to believe that these quadrennial conferences of the brightest minds and leading spirits of all the denominations shall fail to bring these denominations closer together, in belief and polity as well as in service to mankind.

Definite union of the Protestant churches, in the sense of a surrender of their separate identity into the amalgamated whole, as yet is not much more than a hope and a dream, with its realization probably a thing of the distant future, but a more intimate association of activities may be expected within a more reasonable time. Duplicated effort very largely is wasted effort, and there are many painful illustrations of this truth in the church life of the villages and small towns of the country. Much of this assuredly can and will be avoided by the joint exercise of Christian charity and Christian intelligence.

Where Will the Men Come From?
WOULD it be indiscreet to inquire of the voluble and excitable patriots, who now talk so glibly about raising the standing army of the United States to a peace total of 500,000 men, just where the 500,000 are to come from?

The present army, including Philippine Scouts, totals something over 80,000—perhaps it approaches 90,000. To maintain even that strength a quite elaborate system of recruiting, aided by brilliant posters and newspaper advertising, is in operation throughout the country. Its activities never are perceptibly slackened. While the percentage of refusals to the total number of applicants for enlistment probably is high, nobody who is really fit, physically and mentally, to perform a soldier's duty is denied opportunity to gratify his ambition.

American soldiers are the best paid, the best fed and generally the best treated in the world. The per capita cost of our army is several times that of any of the armies of the Old World. Conscription, of course, is not to be considered. What extra inducements must Uncle Sam offer to induce a rush of 400,000 men, in times of peace, to join the colors?

"Four Kings Watch War," says the headline. You bet—and at a safe distance, too.

Is the first "o" dropping out of German thoroughness?

Turkey is determined to make friends for Japan.

SONGS AND SAWS

The Lame Duck.
Our Congress is in session now. Delightful, is it not? About the wrongs we all endure We're due to hear a lot. We'll see the Lame Duck limping 'Cross floors where oft before They've stalked toward the public crib With its wide-open door. They're not long for such delights; For them oblivion's sure. Unless they can attach themselves To some fat sinecure.

The Peasant's Lament.
Perhaps there is not much sense in crying over spilt milk, but a man should be allowed to do a little weeping because he hasn't funds enough to purchase another bottle.

Puzzled.
The One Outside—Does that person think it is raining, or is he trying to defraud the public by failing to carry away in his eyes his legitimate and proper share of the street dust?

Too Much for Him.
Grubbs—What's the matter with your friend, Lightmind? Stubbs—He was trying to make the minute and second hands of his watch agree with each other and with the correct time, and suffered a mental collapse.

What Hurt Most.
"Why are you crying so bitterly, little man?" asked the kind-hearted old lady, as she patted the tearful youngster on his head. "Bill Jones hit me on the nose," was the boy's reply. "Did he hurt you much?" "Now, he didn't hurt me at all, but he ran away before I could hit him back."

Look Up.
Keep on a-looking upward; That's the best thing to do, Even though the dark clouds hover In menace over you; Somewhere you'll find a rift there, Somewhere a hint of blue.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

Editor Walter Harris, of the Petersburg Index-Appeal, who has been keeping score while Aerial accompanied the hunt this season, submits this record and comment: "Forty-eight hunters have been killed this fall in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Maine still to be heard from. Figures showing game killed are not available." Editor Bill Eads, of the Wise County News, says one of his subscribers, who went hunting in a dry county last week, reported that he had killed two quarts, five plums and a flock of half-pints.

The Newport News Times-Herald's sporting editor is apparently again "subbing" for the editorial writer. This paragraph appears, slugged, in heavy-faced typeface type: "King George has gone to the front. Where is the Kaiser? Why not return to an ancient custom and allow these two monarchs to fight it out singlehanded and let the best man win?" The proposition is impracticable. Everybody except the sporting editor of the Times-Herald knows that the only recognized rules governing events in the athletic arena in Continental Europe are the imported Marquis of Queensberry and the imported prize ring, and Wilhelm would naturally refuse to obey English rules already yet.

Editor Flynn, of the Lunenburg Call, rebukes his fellow-townsmen for sitting on barrels and cracker boxes in the corner grocery and walling in chorus about "hard times." Says Flynn: "After all, there is a good deal in talk. Let a man talk dull times and it is infectious; everybody talks dull times. Instead of hustling around to take care of what business there is, they all sit down and moan over dull times. More power to Flynn. If the stay-at-home strategists in all the cities and counties of Virginia, who are planning campaigns for the British, German, French and Russian generals, would put the same amount of thought, energy and enthusiasm into home industries, what a busy State this would be.

The West Point News editorializes on the discovery of a gang of "gunmen" in that thriving town, saying: "It is a very serious condition when young men get to spending their nights roaming about the streets engaging in drunken brawls and reckless destruction of property, but when these young Apaches carry revolvers and threaten pedestrians and actually are shot up and down the streets, the thing has gotten past all endurance." A word of commendation for "Mayor Anderson and the police," however, allays apprehension to some extent, since it discloses that the leaders of the red-handed clique of crime were arrested on the charge of being disorderly in the middle of the road, and that mothers paid their fines in the "quale's court." Guns have their place, but it is at the other West Point.

Says the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: "We have the 'white papers,' the 'orange papers' and now the 'yellow papers.' When Turkey comes to attempt to prove to the world that she was not responsible for her entrance into the war, we wonder in what color the document will be issued." It's to be read, of course, cum grano salis.

Current Editorial Comment

The "three bounding boys" born to Mr. and Mrs. William Freeman, of this county, during the War Between the States, and concerning whom we make inquiry in these columns yesterday, were ill-fated youths. While yet in the tender years of childhood, their lives were sacrificed on the altar of ignorance, all having died of diphtheria, the medical profession had not then learned as much as it now knows about that disease. Attention was first called to the boys by the Richmond Times-Dispatch. In that paper, five years ago, we found the following item, which we published yesterday: "Mrs. Freeman, the wife of William Freeman, a Confederate soldier of Forsyth County, N. C., recently gave birth to three bounding boys, and all are alive and doing well." We are indebted to Mr. C. L. Sharp, of this city, for the following information: Mr. and Mrs. Freeman lived in Belevs Creek township, their farm being near Belevs Creek Station. The three boys referred to above, christened Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, they died of diphtheria while young, and were buried in the same grave in the family burying ground. The grave may still be seen. Mr. Sharp's father, Mr. Calvin Sharp, bought the Freeman farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Freeman moved to Tennessee about forty years ago—Whitson-Salem Journal.

To those who hope that Italy may remain neutral, the vote of 413 to 49 by which the Cabinet was sustained Saturday night is more discouraging than a closer division. An opposition of 10 per cent represents only the extreme pacifists. The war party in the Chamber read their own meaning into Premier Salandra's neutrality not immobile, but active and vigilant, strongly armed; ready for every event and every risk. Northern Italy, so recently an Austrian province, is not more bellicose than the south. De Felice, the strong Socialist leader of Sicily, led the cheering throng for Treves, the "Italy Unredeemed." Colajanni, the Sicilian Republican leader, said that in this hour of peril his sole remorse was that he had not formerly favored annexation. Ex-Premier Giolitti, representing "Central Italy," and the "real repre-

mentary leader, cheered loudly when "the noble and desolated Belgian nation" was acclaimed. When the pacifist Treves begged for defense "only in case of aggression," members called out: "Yes, wait till the thief is in the house!"—New York World.

Reason for Mother Teachers.
A member of New York's school board contributes to the long quarrel over the teacher-mother question the profound thought that "the real reason the married women teachers remain in the service is because their husbands are industrially inefficient, and are either unable or unwilling to provide a proper support for their wives, but they impose upon their wives a double burden." Whether a woman can teach as well with a baby at home is one thing; but that none so circumstanced would teach school except from necessity is a proposition that needs argument. It nevertheless does not follow that every married woman who works while in possession of an able-bodied husband has either a lazy or an inefficient spouse. Such women are merely assisting Cupid to make good against obstacles. In times when the young things "waited" and pined for the better luck that never came, until in the majority of such instances Gold came along to rout Romance in the name of the lady, and Love sat aside and wept. Now they pool their envelopes, jump into the midstream of life, learn to save and to realize in advance the value of parenthood and the price that they cheerfully pay for it.—Columbia State.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 8, 1864.)
Few rumors were heard yesterday, and there were no official dispatches upon which we can base any war news of consequence. The War Department had nothing to give out, that is, not to the newspaper men. The department claimed absolute ignorance of anything doing either on the Richmond or Petersburg lines. The War Department is getting more and more secretive as the days go by.

Contrary to expectation, all of the armies on both sides of the line continued quiet all of yesterday. The Federals showed no disposition whatever to advance on our lines, and the Confederates seemed to be willing to let well enough alone and await the attack of the enemy. They are, or think they are, prepared for it.

There was something curious yesterday about the close-mouthed refusal of the officers on the picket lines, both on the Richmond and Petersburg front, to exchange papers. The Federal pickets had only to say that they had orders not to swap papers with the boys, and that seemed to end it. But, at the same time, many papers were exchanged across the lines. The presumption is that the Federals are up to some game, but they want to keep "the rebs" in ignorance of that. The high officials do, but the soldiers will swap papers, anyhow, and from some of these we get some interesting information from the other side.

From Northern exchanges we learn that the impression prevails in Washington that General Lee has selected some of his men to go to Sherman, and that, in order to accomplish this end, it has been decided to evacuate Petersburg. General Lee has no idea of abandoning Petersburg, and he has sent no men to Georgia.

The remains of Brigadier-General Archibald Gracie have been laid to rest in Hollywood Cemetery, removed at some future date to his day to his native soil in Alabama. A brave soldier never lived; a better general never died for his country.

According to the Macon Confederate, a copy of which has just reached us, that good Georgia soldier was surely a kilted, or some of the things, including the business and the educational institutions, has resumed the normal.

Down in Georgia, General Dick Taylor has been put in command, and in and around Macon he has ordered his cavalry to put up sixty-four siege guns, mounted other cannon on all of the hills, and has ample men to take charge of it all. Under the circumstances, Sherman's combined army could not take Macon.

The report reaches Richmond that the Federal Colonel Merritt, with a force of 3,000 to 4,000 men, is out on a raiding expedition in Loudoun County. So far, he has burned several mills and barns, and is engaged in laying waste to the country after the manner of Sheridan in the Valley.

Captain Mountjoy, attached to Mosby's staff, and one of the most gallant officers in the whole Confederate service, was killed a few days since while pursuing the enemy with a small band. The retreating members of the enemy's band suddenly wheeled and fired at random. Captain Mountjoy received one of the bullets in his breast and fell from his horse in the road. He died in less than an hour.

William P. Munford, the president of the relief commission of the city of Richmond, acknowledges cash contributions amounting to \$20,000, but not enough to meet the wants of the poor and suffering. There have come in many valuable contributions in the way of clothing, cash contributions should be sent to H. E. C. Baskerville, treasurer, and relief supplies to the relief committee of Richmond, care of Martin & Cardozo.

The Voice of the People

Immortality, but Not Resurrection.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The headlines of the account of my address at the Elks' memorial service of yesterday, as given in yesterday's paper, are likely to give a misinterpretation of my sentiments. There was nothing in my address that could be construed to indicate that I expressed my belief in the physical resurrection of the dead. I have a sincere faith in immortality, but I do not believe in resurrection.

Possibly the matter may not, to some, seem of great moment; but, for the sake of "historical accuracy," so to speak, I beg of you to give space to this correction.

EDWARD N. CALISEH.

Richmond, December 7, 1914.

Give to the Poor This Christmas

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—It has been suggested that this year, when there is so much suffering and distress in our country as well as abroad, that we keep Christmas only for the children, and that the money spent generally for presents, often needless ones, for friends and family, shall be sent to those who are in real need.

It is a fine idea, and one that is well worth giving. If we were near enough to see the faces of the suffering and misery of those poor creatures in Europe, I think we would feel just as the American did who, when he saw the pitiable child, as given in yesterday's paper, and he said: "I'll give my horse and send me the money." It is much to be done, and we should all help in every way possible.

A. S. M.

Hampton, Va., December 7, 1914.

Queries and Answers

Dates.
Please tell me what days of the week the following dates fell on: June 20, 1901; September 7, 1906; October 4, 1911. READER.

In your order, Thursday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

Vernon Wanted.

Will you publish Kipling's "The Ladies"? MRS. G. C.

Will some reader kindly send copy?

Old Books.

The two books described by Mrs. M. S. S. have so little money value that a dealer would hardly care to pay express charges for them.

Grammatical.

Would this sentence require a question mark, "Will you not please answer my letter the first instant"? Give rule.

Yes. It is a question, and, so, in written English, is followed by the interrogation mark.

Natoma.

Please tell me who Natoma was. MRS. B.

The heroine of an American opera, the libretto by Joseph D. Redding and the score by Victor Herbert. The time is about 1820, under the Spanish rule, and the heroine is Victor Herbert's daughter, the last of her race, etc. The National Magazine for April, 1911, contains an outline of the story and an account of the opera.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



News Item—The Wireless Activity of the War Vessels on the Atlantic Is Seriously Interfering With Commercial Radios.

HEROISM OF A BELGIAN MOTHER

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I am sending you the translation of a clipping from my home paper in Denmark, which shows the destitute condition of the people of Belgium in a very striking manner.

If thought if you would publish this, it would help to bring to the attention the great need of these people.

AGNES SORSENSEN.

Richmond, December 5, 1914.

Following is the clipping referred to above:

ROTTERDAM, November 2.—In the Wilhelmshaven. In The Hague, the pastor Vermeer told a little story in his preaching the other Sunday about a Belgian laborer's wife. He said: "In the days of the great flight there came between us a Dutch village. The largest one of them, a boy of thirteen, had a little bundle under his blouse. He handled it very carefully and with great caution and he held his one hand all the time in front of it to protect it."

"People who saw him thought that what he in this way carried like a treasure, and they were right. It was a little pet animal, because that kind of rescue was seen very often these days. The boy got under roof somewhere, and when they were in the house asked him what he carried,

he started crying, took the bundle out from under his clothes, and asked her for God's sake to help him. If she could in the bundle was a three-days-old child. He had carried it the long way over the border in cold and danger. He told this story; his father was a soldier and they did not know where he was, perhaps he was shot. His mother was in bed, and was getting worse and worse, and said that she felt she would die. She then called her big boy, gave him the baby, and said: 'Take all the little ones with you and try to get away.'

"And then she saw her children leave her, the eldest the small ones and the baby, and she did not know what was to happen to them, but she trusted her thirteen-year-old boy."

"The Dutch woman took care of the child, and it is in safety now in the foreign country."

The pastor was very much touched by this story about a mother. He called her a heroine, and his emotion showed to all the congregation. The story has since then been through all the Dutch papers, and has, together with other similar reports of Belgian suffering and courage, been conducive to keep up the sympathy for the afflicted people, whose sufferings are far from being at an end, no more than their courage is. They feel strengthened by the sympathy shown them by the whole world.

"GERMANY AND THE POWERS"

It is clear that public opinion in England, while being strongly influenced by the Belgian case, had other things to think of, besides the British-Belgian rivalry certain played a very considerable part in the policy of the British Cabinet. I do not think it was decisive. The English public opinion was not so much influenced by the isolation of the British Isles, as by the maintenance of European equilibrium, by which is meant that England saw to it that Europe was arrayed into two hostile camps, as equally matched as possible, while she kept her hands free in order to throw her weight into the balance of that party that served her aims best. Therefore, when France had to go to war as soon as the British-Belgian rivalry certain played a very considerable part in the policy of the British Cabinet, I do not think it was decisive. 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